

South Scituate Nov. 24
1838.
My Dear Friend.

I have received and considered yours of the 9.th — It would delight me to devote myself wholly to the anti-slavery cause. But the same reasons, that compelled me to leave the agency of the Massachusetts Society, forbid me at present to return to it, or to any other office that would take me so much away from my family. — I hold that husbands and fathers are as much bound by their domestic ties as wives and mothers are, and may not with any greater propriety neglect their households for any more public cares. This is the position I have taken in my discussions on the "Woman question".

I deem mothers and fathers the most important officers of Society. If they were but faithful and wise there would be no need of any others. I am so little satisfied with myself in this respect

that I feel unwilling to put myself in
a situation where I should be unable
to do even so much as I now do for my
children.

Yours very truly
Samuel J. May—



Mrs Maria W. Chapman
Care of Mr H. G. Chapman
Boston.

J. J. May
1838